

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:TGMARTIN:MS

APPROVED BY D- THE ACTING SECRETARY

EUR/IB - MR. RABENOLD

EUR - MR. STABLER

S/S - MR. GAMMON

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R 162134Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226885

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ACTING
SECRETARY

1. AMBASSADOR THEMIDO CAME TO DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER 14 AT
ACTING SECRETARY'S REQUEST, TO RECEIVE WORD THAT AIRLIFT
TO ISRAEL WAS ENDING. THE ACTING SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS
PERSONAL THANKS AND THOSE OF USG FOR PORTUGUESE COOPERATION
IN THE AIRLIFT, AND SAID THAT PORTUGAL'S CONTRIBUTION HAD
BEEN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF A BALANCE
OF POWER IN THE AREA. ALL OF THE ALLIES SHOULD BE
THANKING PORTUGAL.

2. AMBASSADOR THEMIDO SAID THAT PORTUGAL WAS PLEASED TO
HELP THE U.S., ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT SUFFER AS A RESULT. THE
AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO CONSULT
WITH THE U.S. AT A LATER DATE IN THIS REGARD. THE ACTING
SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE WOULD WELCOME CONSULTATION.
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3. THE AMBASSADOR WAS THEN TOLD THAT THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFEREES HAD COMPLETED WORK ON THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL. THE CHANGES IN THE ANTI-PORTUGUESE AMENDMENT WERE UNPRECEDENTED. EVEN THE REFERENCE TO PORTUGAL HAD BEEN DELETED. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ENTIRE AMENDMENT COULD NOT BE ELIMINATED. THEMIDO SAID THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THIS HAD NOT OCCURRED. THE ACTING SECRETARY REPLIED

THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE AMBASSADOR'S DISAPPOINTMENT, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT THIS EPISODE REVEALED HOW THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM OPERATED AND HOW FAR CONGRESSMEN (SOME OBVIOUSLY FRIENDLY TO PORTUGAL) WERE WILLING TO GO TO CORRECT OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE. AMBASSADOR THEMIDO SAID THAT HE HAD NOTED A BETTER ATTITUDE IN THE CONGRESS, AND HE WAS WILLING TO ATTRIBUTE THIS CHANGE TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. HE DID THINK THAT MORE COULD BE DONE IN THIS REGARD ESPECIALLY IN LETTING THE CONGRESS KNOW QUOTE THE TRUTH UNQUOTE ABOUT THE PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES. THE ACTING SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THE STRONG TIES WHICH EXIST BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND THE U.S. AND SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT STOOD READY TO DO WHAT IT COULD TO MAKE THE CONGRESS AWARE OF THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION. KISSINGER

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